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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/657,334	09/08/2003	Yong Chong	198497	1663

7590  
HARRIS BEACH LLP  
99 Garnsey Road  
Pittsford, NY 14534

03/09/2007

EXAMINER
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VU, JIMMY T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2821

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/09/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/657,334	<b>Applicant(s)</b> CHONG, YONG	
	<b>Examiner</b> Jimmy T. Vu	<b>Art Unit</b> 2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12 and 13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Other references have been incorporated to strengthen the examiner's position with respect to the electrical ballast and dimming switch comprising a first board for holding a ballast circuit and a second board for holding power semiconductor devices and a switch responsive to one or more applied mechanical forces for turning lamps on and off and dimming the lamps.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sundaram (U.S. Patent 6,376,991) in view of Moisin (U.S. Patent 5,821,699).

Regarding claim 12, Sundaram discloses a circuit assembly for inclusion within fluorescent lamp as shown in figures 2 comprising first and second circuit boards (B1 and B2, see column 2, line 54), the first circuit board (B1) having a ballast circuit (diode bridges column 2, lines 60-61), and the second circuit board (B2) having a power

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semiconductor device (see column 2, lines 63-67). Sundaram does not specific disclose the assembly further comprising a switch response to a mechanical force for turning on-off a lamp. Moisin shows an improved ballast circuit with a compact fluorescent lamp (as shown in figures 5-9) comprising a circuit board (47, column 12, lines 45-46) having a switch (38) (col. 12, line 14) controlling/adjustable a dimmable ballast (49) (col. 12, line 18), the switch having a mechanical force for turning on/off the lamp. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a dimmer switch as taught by Moisin employed in the assembly of Sundaram in order to control the brightness or cut-off the circuit when being use.

4. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moisin (U.S. Patent 5,821,699) in view of Sundaram (U.S. Patent 6,376,991).

Regarding claim 13, Moisin discloses an improved ballast circuit with a compact fluorescent lamp (as shown in figures 5-11) comprising: mean for receiving an AC input (41a, 41 b) (Fig. 11, col. 14, line 56); means for generating an output to dim a fluorescent lamp (56) (col. 14, lines 42-46); a first circuit board (47) (column 12, lines 45-46) having a ballast circuit (49); a switch (38) electrical connected to the board (47) performing an on-off circuit. Moisin does not disclose the lamp having a second circuit board including a power semiconductor circuit. Sundaram shows a fluorescent lamp assembly (as shown in figure 2) comprising a second circuit board (B2) having power semiconductor device (column 2, lines 63-67). It would have been obvious to one

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having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a second circuit board as taught by Sundaram employed in the assembly of Moisin in order to provide a conversion voltage applied in the lamp.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 1-11 and 14 are allowed.

None of the prior art teaches the circuit for dimming the lamp comprising first and second gate control circuits coupled respectively to the first and second voltage regulator and to the oscillator for generating gate control signals in accordance with the oscillator output, and first and second pairs of gate controlled power semiconductor devices connected to the gate control circuits for supplying power to fluorescent lighting devices in accordance with the gate control signals.

***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy T Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-1832. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F: 9 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas W. Owens can be reached on (571) 272-1662. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2800.

Jimmy Vu

February 27, 2007

*Douglas W. Owens 3/5/07*

DOUGLAS W. OWENS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER